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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Nia Thomas of Chicago, who recently passed away; and

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WHEREAS, Nia Thomas was born on March 28, 1991 in Chicago; Nia, whose name in Swahili means "Purpose", would never allow distractions to pull her away from her goals; and

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WHEREAS, Nia Thomas was a beautiful young lady who had a flair for creativity; at the age of two she was the little girl who took scraps of paper left on the table by her teacher and created a collage, her first framed work of art; she also displayed a keen talent for drawing, writing, the performing arts, and music; and

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WHEREAS, At just four years old, Nia began playing the violin and the piano; she began playing the flute when she was eight, and in 2006 she picked up the saxophone; her first performance was on stage for ballet and tap at age three, she sang in the church choir since she was four, entered the Princess Beauty Pageant at six , and in 2006 she took the lead in Aladdin ; and

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WHEREAS, Nia's interests included swimming, playing little

1 league baseball, ice hockey, figure skating, fencing, taking  
2 karate and Tai Chi lessons, gymnastics, and basketball; when  
3 she was thirteen she became a certified scuba diver; she was  
4 asked to be the assistant cheerleading coach; she took a seat  
5 in student government; Nia was involved with the Youth  
6 Department at the Apostolic Church of God; she was a member of  
7 The G.R.A.C.E. program, a program that groomed teenage girls to  
8 lady-hood; and Nia and her two brothers were active members of  
9 the Children's Concert Choir; and

10 WHEREAS, Nia Thomas has left an indelible mark on all of  
11 her friends; she played a significant role in mentoring her two  
12 brothers, Rheaves and Brooks and is survived by them, her  
13 cousins, her fellow students at the Cove School, and many  
14 friends; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
17 her family and friends, the passing of Nia Thomas; and be it  
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of Nia Thomas as a symbol of our  
21 sympathy.